

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and insert claims 15-23 as follows:

~~RULE 12(e)~~

15. A tubular conduit having a conduit inner surface and opposite first and second coupler end portions,

 said first coupler end portion having first coupler inner and outer surfaces,

 said conduit inner surface being outwardly curved adjacent said first coupler end

a portion along a transition region between said conduit inner surface and said first coupler inner surface,

 said first coupler inner surface having a pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves therein adjacent said transition region,

 said pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves including a sealing groove closest to said transition region and a first coupler locking strap groove on the opposite side of said sealing groove from said transition region,

 said second coupler end portion having a second coupler outer surface sized for close reception within said first coupler end portion,

 said second coupler end portion having a second coupler end and a circumferential outer chamfered end surface that slopes outwardly from said second coupler end toward said second coupler outer surface,

 a second coupler locking strap groove in said second coupler outer surface adjacent said second coupler end,

 the spacing between said first coupler locking strap groove and said transition region and between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove being such that said first and second coupler locking strap grooves are aligned when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the

second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region on the other conduit,

the spacing between said sealing ring groove and said transition region and between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove being such that said sealing ring groove is aligned with said second coupler outer surface intermediate said second coupler locking strap groove and said second coupler end when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region on the other conduit

16
said first coupler end portion having a slot therethrough between said first coupler inner and outer surfaces in alignment with and intersecting said first coupler locking strap groove generally tangentially thereof for receiving a locking strap that is insertable within the aligned first and second locking strap grooves on the second coupler end portion of one conduit that is received in the first coupler end portion on another conduit to lock the conduits together against separation, and one of said locking strap grooves being wider than the other to allow insertion of a locking strap thereinto through said slot despite some misalignment therebetween.

16. The conduit of claim 15 including a sealing ring having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape received in said sealing ring groove and projecting therefrom for engaging a said second coupler outer surface between said second coupler locking strap groove and said outer chamfered end surface when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region of the other conduit.

~~3~~ ~~18~~ 17. The conduit of claim ~~16~~ wherein said sealing ring has at least three inner and outer lobes thereon engaging both the bottom of said sealing groove and said second coupler outer surface.

~~4~~ ~~19~~ 18. The conduit of claim ~~16~~ wherein said one locking strap groove that is wider than the other comprises said second coupler locking strap groove.

a
con 4 ~~5~~ ~~20~~ 19. The conduit of claim ~~15~~ wherein said sealing ring has at least three inner and outer lobes thereon engaging both the bottom of said sealing groove and said second coupler outer surface.

~~6~~ ~~21~~ 20. A coupling between a pair of first and second tubular conduits, said first tubular conduit having a first conduit inner surface and a first coupler end portion,

 said first coupler end portion having first coupler inner and outer surfaces, said first conduit inner surface being outwardly curved adjacent said first coupler end portion along a transition region between said first conduit inner surface and said first coupler inner surface,

 said first coupler inner surface having a pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves therein adjacent said transition region,

 said pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves including a sealing groove closest to said transition region and a first coupler locking strap groove on the opposite side of said sealing groove from said transition region,

1

CL 4

11

1 said second tubular conduit having a second coupler end portion, said second coupler end portion on said second tubular conduit having a second coupler outer surface sized for close reception within said first coupler end portion on said first tubular conduit,

11

1 said second coupler end portion having a second coupler end and a circumferential outer chamfered end surface that slopes outwardly from said second coupler end toward said second coupler outer surface,

11

1 a second coupler locking strap groove in said second coupler outer surface adjacent said second coupler end,

11

1 said second coupler end portion on said second tubular conduit being received in said first coupler end portion on said first tubular conduit with said second coupler end on said second tubular conduit resting against said transition region on said first tubular conduit,

11

1 the spacing between said first coupler locking strap groove and said transition region and between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove being such that said first and second coupler locking strap grooves are aligned when said second coupler end on said second tubular conduit is resting against said transition region on said first tubular conduit,

11

1 a sealing ring received in said sealing ring groove, said sealing ring having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape and being in sealing engagement with said second coupler outer surface between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove,

11

1 said first coupler end portion having a slot therethrough between said first coupler inner and outer surfaces in alignment with and intersecting said first coupler locking strap groove generally tangentially thereof,

one of said locking strap grooves being wider than the other to allow insertion of a locking strap thereinto through said slot despite some misalignment therebetween,

and a locking strap received in said first and second coupler locking strap grooves through said slot to lock the coupling between the first and second coupler end portions on said first and second tubular conduits together against separation.

A
com
~~21.~~ The conduit of claim ~~20~~ wherein said one locking strap groove that is wider than the other comprises said second coupler locking strap groove.

~~22.~~ A tubular conduit having opposite coupler end portions for joining together a plurality of such conduits end-to-end,

said tubular conduit consisting essentially of a plastic tubular conduit having a conduit inner surface and opposite first and second coupler end portions,

said first coupler end portion having first coupler inner and outer surfaces,

said conduit inner surface being outwardly curved adjacent said first coupler end portion along a transition region between said conduit inner surface and said first coupler inner surface,

said first coupler inner surface having a pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves therein adjacent said transition region,

said pair of spaced-apart circumferential grooves being the sole grooves in said first coupler inner surface and including a sealing groove closest to said transition region and a first coupler locking strap groove on the opposite side of said sealing groove from said transition region,

said second coupler end portion having a second coupler outer surface sized for close reception within said first coupler end portion,

said second coupler end portion having a second coupler end and a circumferential outer chamfered end surface that slopes outwardly from said second coupler end toward said second coupler outer surface,

a second coupler locking strap groove in said second coupler outer surface adjacent said second coupler end,

said second coupler locking strap groove being the sole groove in said second coupler outer surface,

the spacing between said first coupler locking strap groove and said transition region and between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove being such that said first and second coupler locking strap grooves are aligned when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region on the other conduit,

the spacing between said sealing ring groove and said transition region and between said second coupler end and said second coupler locking strap groove being such that said sealing ring groove is aligned with said second coupler outer surface intermediate said second coupler locking strap groove and said second coupler end when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region on the other conduit

said first coupler end portion having a slot therethrough between said first coupler inner and outer surfaces in alignment with and intersecting said first coupler locking strap groove generally tangentially thereto for receiving a locking strap that is insertable within the aligned first and second locking strap grooves on the second coupler end portion of one conduit that is

received in the first coupler end portion on another conduit to lock the conduits together against separation, and one of said locking strap grooves being wider than the other to allow insertion of a locking strap thereinto through said slot despite some misalignment therebetween.

*a¹
con. 4*

*9
23.* The conduit of claim ~~22~~ ²³ including a sealing ring having a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape received in said sealing ring groove and projecting therefrom for engaging a said second coupler outer surface between said second coupler locking strap groove and said outer chamfered end surface when a second coupler end portion on one conduit is received in a first coupler end portion on another conduit with the second coupler end on the one conduit resting against the transition region of the other conduit.